

“Puget Sound is in trouble. Many people mistake the stunning sunsets, beautiful beaches and scenic views as evidence of environmental health. But this is not the case. It is time for new actions.”

I believe Washington’s true wealth is its natural resources. And among those resources, Puget Sound’s value is beyond calculation. This 1.8 million acre body of water provides shellfish and salmon, recreation and commercial transportation. It provides beauty in our lives. As Governor, I will accelerate the work to clean up and protect this important asset.

I also will step up our efforts to reduce or eliminate dangerous toxics in our environment, which get into the food chain. I will move ahead with even more actions to promote clean, renewable energy in Washington, such as wind generation, and will tap the scientific community for help in combating global warming.

My Budget for Improving Natural Resources Is:

STRATEGIC

Takes significant actions to renew and protect Puget Sound, cutting pollution at vital ports on which our economy depends. Protects Washington’s crown jewel so it can continue to be used and enjoyed by fishers, tourists, businesses and citizens.

RESPONSIBLE

Delivers more resources to give local governments critical information needed to protect communities in the event of earthquakes and landslides. Continues efforts to remove from the environment dangerous chemicals that accumulate as they move up the food chain.

ACCOUNTABLE

Provides future generations of Washingtonians cleaner air, water and land, so that they and their children and grandchildren can continue to thrive in a state with unique natural resources.

BY THE NUMBERS | The state protects Puget Sound, its 2,500 miles of shoreline and the 10,000 streams that feed into it.

Governor Gregoire's Supplemental Budget for Natural Resources

Protects Puget Sound	<p>Improves and protects Puget Sound. Speeds up cleanup of toxic underwater sediments and uplands at Bellingham, Tacoma and areas adjacent to the Sound, as well as state-owned aquatic lands near Sequim, Anacortes, Port Angeles, Shelton and the Kitsap Peninsula. Strengthens inspections of oil transfers between oil tankers, vessels, tank trucks and shore facilities to better prevent oil spills and improve hazardous-materials spill response in northern Puget Sound. Enhances work to restore estuaries and salmon habitat. Provides grants and loans to homeowners through a new pilot program to repair and replace failing septic systems and grants to local governments for low-impact storm water projects. Helps Puget Sound businesses reduce toxics use. Stores spill response equipment with early responders. Makes improvements to state parks' wastewater systems. Removes creosote logs from our beaches and shorelines. <i>\$500,000 GF-State, \$41.5 million other funds</i></p>
Cleans up toxics	<p>Reduces toxics in the environment. Provides programs to reduce and eliminate use and production of toxic materials such as mercury and Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs). Expands efforts to clean up soils contaminated with unhealthy lead and arsenic at public schools and playgrounds. <i>\$3.9 million other funds</i></p>
Increases recreational fishing	<p>Increases marking of hatchery salmon. Completes mass marking of harvestable hatchery Chinook salmon from federal hatcheries in Puget Sound and on Columbia River. Marking increases recreational fishing opportunities by making it possible for fishers to recognize and release wild fish while harvesting more abundant hatchery stocks. <i>\$5.4 million other funds</i></p>
Identifies hazards	<p>Identifies slide and earthquake hazards. Updates and makes available to local governments and the public geologic information on earthquake hazard and landslide prone areas. <i>\$497,000 GF-State</i></p>
Promotes renewable energy	<p>Promotes investments in renewable energy. Governor supports legislation to expedite siting of wind projects. Also supports requiring utilities to develop plans for cost-effective renewable energy sources, and revisions to current law to give consumers incentives to develop more of their own renewable energy resources, and sell more of what they generate back to the utilities.</p>
Assesses impacts of global warming	<p>Takes action on global warming. Washington's climate change experts and economists will analyze the economic impacts of climate change based on the latest scientific and economic information. The state will also establish and maintain an inventory of state greenhouse gas emissions. These processes will provide the foundation to make effective decisions about critical, long-term infrastructure investments, and take other actions necessary to further reduce greenhouse gases. <i>\$200,000 GF-State</i></p>